

* * * * *

*** PITCHING—Value of Great Battery Men Easy to Understand ***
*** By Work of Washington Team at Times. ***

* * * * *

By Billy Evans

Few really great baseball teams are shy on battery men. Good pitching and good catching cut a big figure in every battle of the diamond.

Few teams have won pennants unless well fortified back of the bat and in the pitchers' box. No matter how many runs a team may make, they are wasted if the opposition makes one more.

Many national league critics insist that the Cubs would have cut a big swath last year had the pitchers not failed. Many look on the team's showing as remarkable, considering the pitching staff.

Detroit suffered because of a pitching slump. The Cubs and the Tigers, the scores show, lost many games when they made five, six, seven and eight runs. Something is wrong somewhere when so many runs fail to win.

The late Addie Joss, a great student of the game, once said pitching was seven-tenths of a club's strength. Many scoffed at this, but Addie was not far out of the way.

Take last year's Washington club for example. Let an ordinary pitcher do the twirling and the club was not greatly feared. Let Walter Johnson step on the rubber and the club became dangerous. Aside from the strength added by Johnson's pitching his very presence gave



Christy Mathewson.

confidence to every member of the team.

The catcher plays so big a part